

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of April 23, 2003. Allowance of claims 1-20 is requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-12 stand allowed.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Berland (US 6,140,650).

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Berland.

Claims 15-19 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Berland in view of DiFilippo (US 5,793,045).

The Present Amendment

The applicants note the allowance of claims 1-12 with appreciation.

Claim 13 has been amended to paraphrase the language at the bottom of page 4 of the Office Action in the statements of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 13 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has also been amended to paraphrase the language of the reasons for allowance. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 14 and claim 20 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

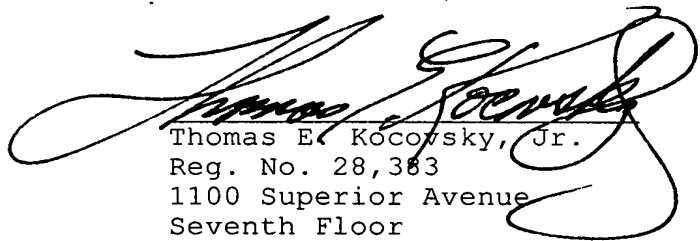
Claim 15, which as indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 15 and claims 16-19 dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

With this amendment, it is submitted that all claims distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record and are otherwise in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **AMENDMENT A and REQUEST FOR A ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME** in connection with U.S. Application Serial No. 09/893,934 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 19th day of August, 2003.

By: Hilary McNulty